

HAIL TO THE VEEP!

Theresa LaRocca Meyer Named Vice President for Enrollment Management

By Christina Contessa

After a series of competitive interviews, Sister Elizabeth Hill, president of St. Joseph's College, announced that Theresa LaRocca Meyer was elevated to the position of Vice President for Enrollment Management.

Ms. LaRocca Meyer, formerly the Director of Admissions for the Brooklyn campus, is largely responsible for the enormous jump in enrollment in the freshmen class over the last four years.

The job of vice president represents a huge shift in responsibilities for Ms. LaRocca Meyer. Primarily, she will be tasked with formulating and implementing a college-wide admissions plan for both Arts and Sciences and Adult and Professional at both the Brooklyn and Patchogue campuses.

"My ultimate goal is to increase the enrollment at both campuses," said Ms. LaRocca Meyer.

How she will do that, will be through assessing and evaluating current programs, finding ways to streamline and in some cases, combine procedures between Arts and Sciences and Adult and Professional.

"As vice-president, 'I will be working very closely with Dr. Tom Travis of Adult and Professional to find ways to make our recruiting and admissions programs even more successful in the future,' she said.

These new recruiting initiatives will involve working with advertising agencies and tying in Financial Aid all under one umbrella.

Recruiting students for undergraduate education can often be as competitive as recruiting athletes for college sports. Recognizing the level of this competition, Sister Elizabeth decided to create the new vice presidency to deal with these problems.

"We are facing increased competition on all fronts, and so it is important that our enrollment practices enable us to keep pace, or better, stay ahead of the rest," said Sister Elizabeth.

Theresa LaRocca Meyer earned both her Bachelor's and Master's degrees at St. John's University and had been working in the field of enrollment and retention management for almost thirty years.

While at St. John's, she was Director of University Recruitment Services from 1977-1987. She moved on to the position of Associate Provost for Enrollment and Retention Management at SUNY Stony Brook from 1987-2000.

She came to St. Joseph's College in 2001 to become Director of Admissions and has seen the incoming freshman class grow from a little over 65 students to its current level of nearly 150.

"Integration of services is going to take some time. We have to take into account the feasibility

of programs between Arts and Sciences and Adult and Professional with ongoing assessment and ongoing feasibility studies," said Ms. LaRocca Meyer of the combining of the two divisions of the school.

The advantages of combining the two divisions are many. The integration of Arts and Sciences with Adult and Professional will give students in both divisions of the college the opportunity to take a wider variety of classes.

As part of her job, Ms. LaRocca Meyer will also be working closely with Nancy Connors, Vice President for Institutional Advancement, which is in charge of recruitment marketing and advertising.

There are no current plans to abolish the job of Director of Admissions for the Brooklyn campus. Ms. LaRocca Meyer will be doing both jobs until she is able to assess the overall recruiting position of the college.

The obvious question that comes to mind involves how Ms. LaRocca Meyer will manage her time. Always busy as Director of Admissions, her new job seems to indicate a fourfold jump in the amount of work that must be done. How can one person handle all of that?

"It isn't really one person," said Ms. LaRocca Meyer. "There will still be Directors and I will be overseeing everything," she added.



New SJC Vice President Theresa LaRocca-Meyer



SJC President Sister Elizabeth Hill

SISTER ELIZABETH DUAL AWARD WINNER

By John Castaldo

In addition to being the president of St. Joseph's College, with all its attendant duties and responsibilities, Sister Elizabeth Hill is also a highly respected member of the community and educational establishment in the New York area.

Recently, Sister Elizabeth was the recipient of two separate awards from two organizations which honored her for her charitable works and contributions to education.

On September 29, the Lighthouse Mission, an organization dedicated to feeding the poor on Long Island, honored Sr. Elizabeth and their 3rd Annual "Feed the Children" fundraiser which was held at the Patchogue Manor.

Upon receiving the award, S. Elizabeth said, "St. Joseph's College is very proud to support the Lighthouse Mission for their com-

mitment to feeding the hungry on Long Island. The Mission has served as an inspiration to our students, who are encouraged to develop personal value systems, responsible self-direction and commitment to participation in local and global communities through volunteerism and donations."

That spirit of volunteering and reaching out to others is evident on the Brooklyn campus through the numerous charitable drives and programs that take place each school year.

Already this year the school has taken part in Hurricane Katrina Relief, held a blood drive and has collected everything from used eyeglasses to items for military personnel serving in Iraq.

The Brooklyn campus also took part in the "One" program to fight world poverty, a "Walk for the

Cure" breast cancer fundraiser and the "Up Till Dawn" fundraising campaign for St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

S. Elizabeth noted that at St. Joseph's College, "We live in the same spirit, and salute the Mission for their continued work and dedication to service."

One month later, on October 20, Sr. Elizabeth again was honored, this time by the organization, Promote Long Island, NY, Inc. She was this year's recipient of the "Long Island Education" award.

Promote Long Island seeks to foster and promote public awareness and appreciation of Long Island, particularly the benefits of living on Long Island. It also attempts to promote Long Island's regional economy and helps to provide it with a strong regional identity.

Honored along with Sr. Elizabeth

were John Halsey, president of Peconic Land Trust; Robert Palmer, Chairman of the Long Island Wine Council, and Edmund L. Cortez, president and CEO of Abilities!

Sr. Elizabeth is an active member of numerous organizations in both the Brooklyn and Patchogue communities. She is on the Steering Committee of the Long Island Regional Advisory Council on Higher Education, Vice-Chairperson of the Long Island Association, and is on the Board of Directors of the Fair Media Council.

She also is part of the Independence Community Foundation, the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce, the Fort Greene Strategic Neighborhood Partnership and the Myrtle Avenue Revitalization Project.

All of this—while presiding over two separate college campuses and nearly 5000 students!

ON THE INSIDE:

- New Veep Chosen p. 1
- Editorials p. 2
- New Publication p. 3
- Spamalot Review p. 4
- Jazz Band Show p. 5
- Professor Gilvey p. 5
- Tulane's Dean p. 7
- Volleyball Title p. 8

AND MUCH MUCH MORE!

EDITORIALS

BLESS THEM ALL – AND DON'T FORGE THEM!

Their average age is 19 years, 7 months. They push around millions of dollars worth of aircraft on a pitching flight deck in weather that would terrify most mere mortals. They are the men and women of the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Ronald Reagan—and they keep us free.

Their average age is 20 years, 2 months—and they man the gun line, or drive an M-1 Abrams tank, or hump an M-60 machine gun through desert heat and terrorist havens. They are the men and women of the United States Army and Marine Corps—and they keep us free.

And let us not forget those heroic young men and women of the United States Air Force and United States Coast Guard who protect our skies and shores. They too keep us free.

If you knew what they earned, you would find it laughable or perhaps disgraceful. If you realized that for the enlisted personnel of the U.S. military who have families, nearly 40% of them must rely upon food stamps to feed those families, then perhaps you might feel differently about them.

They ask little of us. They don't want big salaries or annual bonuses. They don't want keys to the executive washroom or company cars. The last things on their minds are 401k plans and stock options. They are an all-volunteer force and they knew the risks; they knew what they were getting themselves into. And still they joined up to serve and protect America.

Though they walk posts in every hell hole in the world and risk death or injury on a daily basis, they merely ask for our respect and support.

So this Christmas, when you are unwrapping your gifts and sitting with your families at a special holiday dinner, give a thought to the young men and women of America's armed forces.

And if you really want to think about them, there are things that you, we, all of us can do for them. The United Service Organization (USO) has a number of programs that allow Americans who are stateside to do something special for our soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines overseas. Why not consider one of the following:

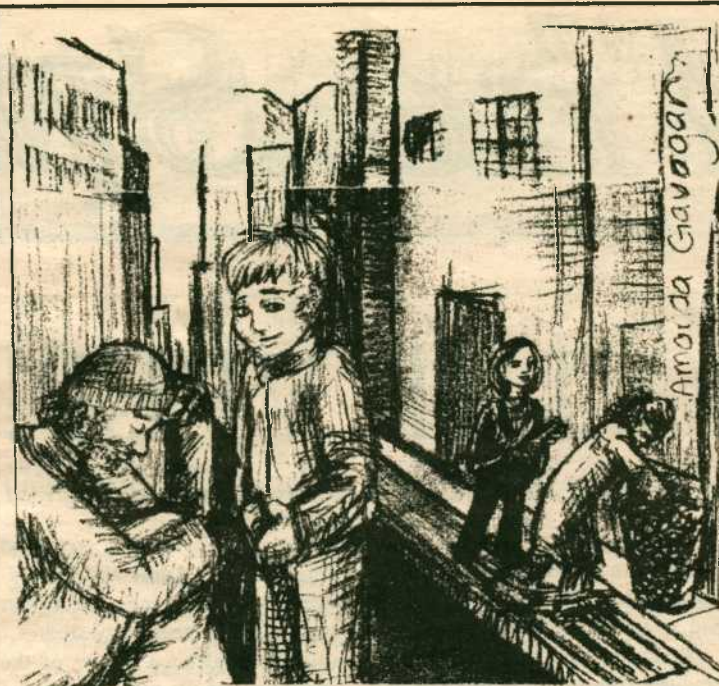
- **Operation Phone Home.** For a mere \$10.00, you can send a 100 minute global calling card to a deployed serviceman—shipping included.
- **Operation USO Care Package.** For \$25.00, the USO will deliver a package of toiletries and other items to a serviceman in route to Iraq or another overseas post, or to one already in another country.
- **Commissary and PX Gift Certificates.** Any amount you can contribute will be distributed to servicemen abroad to use at Post Exchanges and Post Commissaries.
- **Operation Mail Call.** A \$25 contribution will purchase a Greeting Card account card for a servicemen worth 10 greeting cards that they can use to send to their friends and families stateside.
- **General Donations.** Any general donation will be used by the USO for hospital support for recuperating soldiers, USO overseas centers, mobile canteens, airport centers, family centers, education programs and USO entertainment tours.
- More information about what *you* can do to show support for our military personnel can be found on the USO website at www.uso.org.

We live in a time when everyone pays lip service to supporting our troops, slaps magnetic yellow ribbons onto the backs of their cars and sticks bumper stickers on their fenders. But Christmas is the time when our soldiers and their families need us the most. It is a time when we really can do something special, something to show them that they have not been forgotten and that we value them enormously and that we thank them for all their sacrifices.

Remember: they aren't so very different from any of us. They are Americans. Like us, they have a mission in life—one that almost to a man, they believe in, one they are prepared to die for.

But many of them are just lonely and frightened kids, uncertain of what the next day will bring. We can help with that loneliness if we just take the time to care.

And the next time you see a soldier, sailor, airman or marine—give them a thumbs up and a Semper Fi, or Anchors Aweigh, or Keep em' Flying or Roll Army. They'll appreciate it—and know that you haven't forgotten about them.



Don't forget others in this happiest of seasons!



Talking Points

By Christina Contessa

TIS THE SEASON TO BE GIVING!

Christmas bells are ringing! Yep, it's that time of the year for carols and joy to the world, peace on Earth—and, I hope, giving—and I don't mean to your friends or sweethearts.

Needless to say, there are a lot of people out there who are in more need than we are during the holiday season. So maybe we should take some time from our totally busy schedules to see what we can do to reach out to others.

Let's start out locally and then move on to the major things that are happening that reflect society's needs. You can help out at a local soup kitchen this year or volunteer to help the Salvation Army.

You can bring canned goods to one of the numerous food drops run by City Harvest. They can be found at any firehouse in the city.

There are still thousands of people in Louisiana, Texas and Florida that need help in recovering from the nation's worst hurricane season. Food, shelter, clothing—in general, *hope* is what they need the most, and we can all help give it to them.

Contributions to the Red Cross and Habitat for Humanity are two ways in which your help can really make an impact on people's lives.

A year after the tsunami of Christmas 2004, the citizens of Sri

Lanka and Indonesia still need help. There are children starving because their parents' jobs disappeared beneath the wall of water.

Many nations offered America aid after both September 11 and Hurricane Katrina. We should reciprocate—especially at this time of the year.

A recent issue of *The Spirit* featured an article about the ONE organization, which has stars of the music world, stage and screen all helping to bring an end to poverty in the world. A contribution to ONE could help some of the many thousands of people who suffer from hunger in poverty-stricken nations.

Don't forget the little ones either. For nearly thirty years, the Marine Corps Reserve has run their annual Toys-for-Tots campaign. Amidst all the Christmas shopping that you do for others, maybe invest a couple of dollars in the happiness of a child you will never see, and buy a small toy for Toys-for-Tots.

You don't need to wrap it. The Marines will take care of that, and pick them up and deliver them to hospitals, hostels, hospices—wherever children need love and care the most.

It's amazing what a toy will do for the spirits of a child.

Last, but certainly not least, don't forget our troops in Iraq and in other parts of the world, who feel the

separation from home and family much deeper than we do.

It's not a question of politics, whether or not you agree with the war. It's a matter of helping out those young men and women who are fighting—and dying—for us.

Check out the editorial in this month's edition of *The Spirit* for ways in which you can do something for them.

Complaining is part of the human condition. Everyone does it, no one is immune. But let's take a look at what we have and then compare it to what others don't have. To coin a phrase, let's count our blessings and be grateful for all that we can do and be and possess.

If you would like to do something—really do something this year, here are some websites you can check out: www.redcross.org, www.one.org and for habitat for humanity, www.habitat.org.

I hope you have a very meaningful and joyous holiday season. I hope you take just a moment to do something nice for someone else. And I hope you enjoy the feeling of knowing that your little gesture—multiplied by millions and millions, can really do something to change our world!

Happy holidays and see you in the spring term!

THE SPIRIT

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**The Staff of
"The Spirit"
Wishes all of You a
Wonderous and Joyous
Holiday Season**

Another New Publication for St. Joseph's

Literary Magazine Joins Yearbook and Newspaper as School's Publications

By Tara Vafiadou

There's a new kid on the block—or at least in the Publications Department—and her name is *Calliope*: *A Journal of the Literary Arts*.

Calliope is, named after one of the 9 muses of Greek mythology who served as patroness and inspiration for epic poets. It will be a joint publication of the Brooklyn and Patchogue campuses of St. Joseph's College.

As a journal of creative arts, *Calliope* will feature poetry, short stories and literary criticism that has been submitted by students from both campuses.

The publication is an outgrowth of suggestions made by members of the English Club on the Brooklyn campus. The club, advised by Professor Margaret Jennings, felt that there was a need for students to have a creative outlet in which to publish their art.

The Patchogue campus was excited to come on board as contributors and editors, as the literary magazine there had ceased publication several years ago.

"I'm part of the cheering section for this magazine," said Professor Jennings. "I hope the magazine will be a fine contribution to campus life and I am delighted that *The Spirit* will be featuring it in its next edition," she added.

Advising the publication will be Director of Student Publications Dr. Howard Weiner, who also advises *Footprints* and *The Spirit*.

Dr. Weiner has 25 years experience in advising literary magazines

and *Ars Poetica*, his publication at Franklin D. Roosevelt High School won numerous first place awards from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association and the American Scholastic Press Association.

"I think that any college should have a literary magazine of this sort," said Dr. Weiner. "You need to give young people a way to express their joys, fears, concerns and emotions, and I think *Calliope* will do just that," he added.

The editors-in-chief of *Calliope* are Fiona McWilliam, president of the English Club, and Samantha Saines, also a member of the English Club.

There will also be an editorial panel made up of students from both campuses, and several professors, including Dr. Jennings and Dr. Weiner.

"We are really excited about starting the literary magazine," said editor-in-chief Fiona McWilliam. "We are working very hard to get students to submit their writing and then to be involved in the actual design process of the first edition of *Calliope*," she added.

Any student on either campus may submit poems or short stories for consideration by bringing them to the Publications Office (Room 607, St. Angela Hall), or by emailing them to englitclubsic@hotmail.com.

There are no restrictions on subject matter, but there is a restriction on short story length: all short stories must be kept to 800 words

or less. The deadline for submissions is Friday, January 6, 2006.

Artists are also needed for the *Calliope* and any interested student should either email Dr. Weiner or come to the Publications Office for more information.

Reaction to the announcement of *Calliope* was positive and encouraging.

"I think it is a wonderful way for students to feel good about their work," said Dean of Students Susan Hudec. "It encourages students to be creative and to share their creative talents with the community, staff and students," she added.

At this point, it is anticipated that 1000 copies of the journal will be printed with a projected publication date in April of 2006.

"I think it is an exciting new adventure for St. Joseph's College, particularly because it is a joint project with the Patchogue campus," said Director of Student Services Sherrie VanArman.

Editor-in-Chief Samantha Saines has noted that the first problem is obtaining submissions. "We know that students write poetry often but have been shy about letting others see it. We appreciate that, but want our talented students to have a chance to show what they can do," she said.

It is hoped by all involved in the project that *Calliope: A Journal of the Literary Arts* will become another award-winning publication of St. Joseph's College.



Editors Saines and Fiona McWilliam With Dr. Weiner



THE GAMESMAN

by ROBERT MARRIELLO

GAMES, DOWNLOADING—AND THE LAW

I'm going to change the pace a bit in this column and instead of writing about games, I'm going to talk about some gaming laws that have been passed recently.

The first law I want to discuss is from the eastern reaches of the world, China. In China, there is now a law that says that people playing online games are only allowed to play for three hours at a time.

So far, this is being used for a game called, "The World of Warcraft," one of the most popular computer MMORPGs (Massively Multiplayer Online Role Playing Games).

If a person plays more than three hours, their statistics get cut in half and if it is more than five hours, they get bumped down all the way to Level One.

This would probably get higher level gamers to worry, but those who only go to talk wouldn't care. Also, the program that does this seems to have no way to determine if it has a way of knowing if a person actually is playing or just forgot to turn the game off.

This would work against the hardcore gamer to the point where he would obey the rule to save their level 100 character, only to find out that they forgot to turn off their computers and game. The result of this would be that their character could wind up dead from attacks from NPCs (non-playable characters—the characters programmed into the game that you have no control over).

A law that is closer to home and is also the subject of a big debate has its roots in California, Illinois and Michigan. Currently in those states, the law bans the sale of mature games to minors. In California, it has got-

ten to the point where they have enacted their own rating system outside of the one currently used in other states.

The reason behind this law was that people began reenacting scenes from TV and movies in which people got hurt.

More recently, the "Hot Coffee" incident occurred in which a modified program was put in the game, "Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas" that when activated, caused the implied scenes of raunchiness to become a visible and interactive mini-game.

So California passed a law saying that all games that included "killing, maiming, dismembering or sexually assaulting an image of a human being" could not be sold to minors at any time.

California now has its own rating system with its own rating board, separate from the other states.

I've also decided to add an extra section to each column based upon one of my favorite game-based podcasts which I call "Fact or Fake." I will bring up three things, and you have to determine which one is the fake one.

For example:

(1) An online game property sold for \$100,000. (2) Pirates attack a cruise ship but get foiled by a sonic blaster, or (3) Master Chief, the main character from the Halo series, will be a secret character in the upcoming "Dead or Alive 4" game.

The answer will be revealed in my next column. You can email your guesses to my new email account at sicgamesman@hotmail.com.

And if you can't wait, just stop me on campus and ask. I might just tell you the answer!

Till next month—good gaming!

MTV's Landon Lueck Visits St. Joe's

By Carolyn Henrich

What happens to a reality TV show star when the reality comes to a crashing end? Some of them, like Landon Lueck of MTV's *Real World Philadelphia*, go on the lecture circuit and spread their messages to undergraduates all across America.

Lueck, 25, known as the "frat boy" type on the show, visited St. Joseph's College on November 8 to speak during common hour on the subject of alcohol use and abuse.

Famed for partying and binge drinking, Lueck says that he learned something about himself from watching tapes of the show—and that was something that he wanted to share with other students: that alcohol abuse can be one of the most destructive types of human behavior, especially amongst young people.

Lueck was very forthright in sharing his experiences as a collegian at the University of Wisconsin. He had received a few DUIs and found his way into trouble with the administration and law several other times.

He talked about how alcohol had even affected his relationships, how it did nothing positive for him at all.

Quite to the contrary, it often left him in a bleary haze unable to focus upon schoolwork or anything else of importance.

Though not a teetotaler, Lueck

made no secrets about preaching on the ills of overindulgence. "I really enjoy going from school to school meeting with young people and talking on this subject," he said.

His fellow classmates from *Real World* set him up with an agency that books him on to shows and college



Landon Lueck Works the Crowd

campuses to talk about his experiences.

As to whether or not he feels he is able to get through to the students he meets, Lueck said, "I'm not going to be able to reach every person, but getting one or two to see what

they can potentially do to themselves is enough."

The task of being a lecturer on the subject of alcoholism is not without its challenges. "There was one speech I made where people were really unhappy. I was booked into a date with another speaker, and I thought the things he said were really out of line—so it just degenerated from there," he said.

Lueck recognizes the existence and acceptance of social drinking, but it is the abusive side of drinking that is the focal point of his speeches.

"It's all about incentive for me," he said. "My incentive is to help young people—kids on campuses who were just like me. I want to show them that there is a better way of living their lives than getting falling-down drunk every night or every weekend," he said.

Response from the St. Joseph's audience was almost universally positive.

"I thought he was very personable," said junior Robert Marriello, "and it was my impression that the students who heard him speak were impressed by his sincerity," he added.

Reality television star to motivational speaker; it's been quite a journey for Landon Lueck, but one which, in his own words, "has been worth every bit of the effort."

COMMENTS? SUGGESTIONS? IDEAS? CRITIQUES?

STOP BY ROOM 607, ST. ANGELA HALL
AND LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK!



MUSICAL NOTES

By John Castaldo

DOWNLOADING—AN IDEA WHOSE TIME HAS COME

I walked into Best Buy a few weeks ago hoping to buy a CD that I had wanted. I strolled on into the store and went straight for the music section.

Now, I have to admit, I had some trouble finding the CD I was looking for, so I asked a salesperson for help. She was as dumb as a rock! I doubt she would know music if it smacked her in the face!

I then continued looking. After about 15 minutes, I found the CD. Then I looked at the price tag and just shook my head: \$22 for a CD that costs pennies to manufacture.

I did purchase it, but I promised myself I would buy considerably fewer CDs for the remainder of this year and next.

In addition to being a CD collector of sorts, I have an iPod and I download a significant amount of music from iTunes. I love iTunes! You pay .99 cents for each song downloaded and most albums cost \$9.99. That's the price retailers should be charging for CDs.

I'm told that if you want that price, the only place you can go is Walmart—you know, the store New York City won't allow within the city limits.

The problem is, iTunes has a lot of music—but it doesn't have everything that interests me. NEWSFLASH! Neither do music stores.

There are benefits to CDs and downloaded music. Legally downloaded music and CDs are yours forever. Unlike CDs, you have the ability to buy single songs when downloading, so you don't get stuck with an entire album of filler that only has one good song on it.

I downloaded 20 songs this month, which means I spent approximately \$20. All of these downloads are of different recording artists, and I can guarantee you that the money is equally distributed across genres.

Imagine: 20 bucks for only those songs I want! If I had to buy CDs, I would have 20 CDs and would have spent over \$300. What sounds better to you—20 bucks, or 300?

Another plus with using iTunes is that there are no employees who have no musical knowledge to deal with. It is easy to use and you can find what you are looking for in a matter of seconds. Not to mention, those albums that are out of pro-

duction in the United States can be found on iTunes. I found a song called "Ballin' the Jack" that I couldn't find in any record store.

Music downloaded from iTunes can be burned onto a CD. Why buy a CD when you can make your own with only those songs you want?

Let me be frank: most people who purchase CDs buy contemporary music; however, artists nowadays have only one good song per album. There are exceptions, such as Nora Jones, Madonna and Rufus Wainwright, who have a tendency to produce multiple tracks worth listening to.

There are more online sites to download from other than iTunes. Napster is another one that you might consider using. I do encourage those of you who download or are now considering downloading to download from a pay site. There are free sites, but they are illegal.

I recently had a friend who was sued by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) for downloading over 1,500 songs off of Limewire over the past 3 years.

So be responsible when downloading. Saving money is important, but stealing in order to save money is irresponsible and, well, stealing.

CDs are very overpriced. Downloaded music is priced fairly. The record industry is trying to cut down on the amount of downloading by trying to negotiate prices with iTunes and other companies.

The recording companies want to raise prices on new songs to \$1.49 and keep the price for older songs at .99. Although this seems fair, I think that this will lead to more price increases over time, which would cause the price of each downloaded song to equal that of each song on a CD.

The downloading companies are resisting the pressure and hopefully they won't cave in. The music industry is at a historic time in its history. Digital music players are allowing people to own more music at cheaper prices.

I advocate legal music downloading because of its inexpensive cost and because it will provide people with greater access to more musical genres, thus expanding their musical taste and appreciation of musical differences and creativity.

Philippine Dance Troupe Bridges Cultural Gap

By Sean Kehoe

"Aidao! Aidao!" in the Philippine language means "More dances, More Dances." Spectators at the performance of the Kinding Sindaw Philippine Dance Company came to understand the meaning of that phrase on November 9 during common hour.

The performance was much more than a typical song and dance show. The introductory dances were excerpts from the "Lemlunay," the saga of the Tiboli people, ad excerpts from "Sultan Kudarat," a 90 minute dramatic epic.

The featured players in this segment were 6 of the 35 member troupe which premiered the full version of "Sultan Kudarat" on November 10 at La MAMMA arts center.

The players took the stage in full regalia—traditional costumes of the tribal nations of the Philippines that predated the 16th century.

The dancers accentuated their gestural narrative with an array of scarves and veils. In the hands of the dancers, these symbolic props became wings, oars, masks, infants—even the esoteric bonds between human beings.

To accompany the pantomime, authentic musical instruments provided the tone and tempo. From simple skin drums called dabakan to the kulintang, a 9 piece bronze gong set with a polytonal range.

In Madal Saluray-Hegelonig,

the graceful sway and gyration of the traditional dance of courtship was presented to show the interplay of the male and female participants.

The genuine nature of matrimony was celebrated with subtle eloquence and simplicity. The dance itself hearkened back to a time when marriages were held in large groups on the same day.

The dance encompassed many themes and scenarios, some universal such as the rite of marriage, the trials of child-rearing, and the reverence for the land.

One of Kinding's founders, Potri Ranka Minis, serves as a living link to the Philippine past. A princess and daughter of a sultan from the Maranaos tribe, she inherited the oral traditions and the history of her people.

Minis founded the group in 1992 to serve as "a resource for history, culture, dance and martial arts of the indigenous peoples of the Philippines."

Included in that history are the dances and customs of several tribes, transforming the group into a cross-cultural institution.

"This has been my life," said Minis. "Since birth I have been learning these traditions, but that is not so for others involved in the company. Some are from the Philippines, some are from the United States. Everyone brings what they can and we all learn together," she added.

One of the missions of the company is to provide a foil for the written history of the Philippines. Minis notes that "Over 80% of our history is carried through the oral traditions, the knowledge of our elders and their legends."

As the Philippines becomes more assimilated into the rest of Asia, it has been more necessary for the country to develop and maintain its own identity. "When Filipino children see us, they get a lot more than the one tangent they see in their own lives," says Minis.

One of the members of the company, Diane Camino, is from the Bronx. She says of her experience, "I found a common bond I never knew existed. That's what I would most like to express, that amazing connection these traditions have come to provide."

The first act in the closing number, "Pagaper-aper," the dance of the magical butterfly, symbolized the civil dignity and pride felt by the tribes of belonging to the imperial Rajah. Clad in regal purple and gold, the dancers slowly paraded around the stage with all the grace and royalty of living nobles.

Kinding Sindaw translates into English as "Dance of Light." Almost 500 years after this light was revealed, it was evident that Filipino culture was still bright and meaningful.

Review: "Spamalot" Entertainsalot!

By Adam Mace

Think of it as King Arthur and his knights meet the Marx Brothers on a bad hair day—and you have some idea of the breadth and scope of the smash Broadway hit, *Spamalot*.

Though one of the hottest tickets in town, CAB obtained a block of seats for students, faculty and guests for Tuesday, November 15 to see the 2005 Tony Award winning musical.

The show, in the words of its creators, "lovingly ripped off of *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*," is a live remake of the British comedy troupe's most popular motion picture.

Eric Idle, the brains and conservator of the Monty Python legacy, has recreated the show for the Broadway stage maintaining many of the bits and routines that Monty Python's Flying Circus was known for: slapstick humor, crude humor, Spam humor, crude humor, satire, crude humor—all packed into two hours and twenty minutes of non-stop laughter.

From the opening chords of the overture to the riotous curtain calls, the audience is treated to both subtle and not-so-subtle British humor which riffs on the Arthurian legends so popular during the Middle Ages.

The cast, a mix of seasoned veterans and newcomers, delivers the

jokes, songs and physical comedy so deftly directed by stage and screen veteran, Mike Nichols.

Tim Curry, perhaps best known for his turn in *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* evidently enjoys every moment of stage time that he can cadge, bringing a sort of bumbling nobility to Arthur.

David Hyde Pierce, for many years a star of TV's *Frasier*, delivers a career performance as Sir Robin. He also plays several other characters in the show.

In fact, with the exception of King Arthur and the Lady of the Lake, every actor in the show triples and quadruples in other roles.

Speaking of the Lady of the Lake, there's a new spelling for diva: SARAH RAMIREZ! She simply took the breath away from the audience with a voice as powerful as a cannon, and a sense of comic timing that would have made a stand-up veteran envious.

She virtually steals the show in her Act I production number, "Find Your Grail."

She is scheduled to leave the show in December, but with her 2005 Tony Award for Best Supporting Actress, she won't be away from the boards for long.

Missing from the lineup was Hank Azaria who originated the role of Sir Lancelot. He was a way

filming a TV show but will return to the cast in December. Best known as the house servant in *The Birdcage*, Azaria brings a zany quality to any role he plays. But he was ably understudied by Alan Tudyk, known from films such as *Dodgeball*, *I, Robot*, *A Knight's Tale* and *28 Days*.

Two other notable performers were Christopher Sieber in the role of Sir Galahad, and Steve Rosen, who visited St. Joseph's recently for Orientation 2005. Rosen plays Sir Bedevere and Sir Galahad's mother in addition to other roles. The songs with lyrics by Eric Idle and John du Prez are marvelous satires, send-ups and commentaries on show business such as "You Won't Succeed on Broadway (if you don't have any Jews)" and "Whatever Happened to My Part."

The costumes are colorful (if somewhat moth-eaten in a Cecil B. DeMille way) and the many changes that the smallish company must make gives ample opportunity for a variety of medieval looks.

Flying cows, killer rabbits, knights that say "ni"—all pointing to the brighter side of life! That's the substance of *Spamalot*, and by the time its run is through, it should go down as one of the longest-running shows in Broadway history. It's a can't-miss night of theater.

WANTED!
REPORTERS, EDITORS,
COLUMNISTS.
INTERESTED? COME TO
ST. ANGELA HALL, ROOM 607



Professor Gilvey with Willow Figueroa and Diana Harvey.

Professor Gilvey Publishes Book on Dance Icon

By Christina Ament

Who would think that a small school like St. Joseph's College would be home to published and successful authors? After thirteen long years of research, Reverend John A. Gilvey, Professor of Speech Communication and Theater has published a book entitled *Before the Parade Passes By: Gower Champion and the Gorgeous American Musical*.

The book, published on October 12, 2005, is about the legendary Broadway director who directed such megahits as *Bye Bye Birdie*, *Hello Dolly* and *42nd Street*.

In addition to being a director, Champion started out with his wife, Marge, as one of the most successful dance teams in American film musical history.

"Every musical that Gower Champion created had a clean style. He created musicals that touched the heart and soul," said Father Gilvey.

Gower Champion served as a role model for Father Gilvey who remembers watching him on film at Saturday matinees which were a popular form of entertainment while he was growing up.

Father Gilvey was inspired to

write *Parade* because he considered Champion to be so important and influential to the development of Broadway musicals and he felt his story needed to be fully told.

In particular, Father Gilvey wanted college students to learn about Champion's contributions to Broadway, and he had students in mind when he wrote his book.

"I really wrote the book with college students in mind because I am a college professor. I wanted students to know what the entertainment industry was like about seventy years ago and I wanted to inform them about Gower Champion's accomplishments twenty-five years after his death," he said.

To fulfil his goal, Father Gilvey presented the book to St. Joe's students and faculty as part of the Faculty Seminar Series. This presentation was held Thursday, November 10 during common hour in the Tuohy Hall auditorium.

During the seminar, Father Gilvey discussed Gower Champion's life, showed movie clips of Champion with his dance partner and wife, and fielded questions from the student and faculty audience.

"I not only want students to enjoy

musicals they see in the theater, but to appreciate how they've come to be what they are today," he said.

The audience was responsive and enthusiastic about the seminar. Sophomore Mike Multari said, "The whole speech was fascinating. Father Gilvey's speech showed how Gower was the basis for how musicals are today. It was great to learn who started to put dance, song and reason together on stage."

At the seminar, Father Gilvey also offered his book to the audience at a discounted price of \$25 per volume—complete with author's autograph. An additional book signing was held at the Drama Book Shop at 250 West 40th Street in Manhattan on November 16.

Though only his first publication, Father Gilvey's book has received positive responses from Kirkus Review and the Library Journal, who noted, "Gilvey reached the top shelf of high-kicking Broadway biographies."

Father Gilvey's book can be found in a variety of bookstores including Barnes and Noble and Borders. It appeals to both Broadway lovers and newcomers to the genre of the American musical theater.*



ARTSCAPE BY ERIN DORSO

SEE WHAT I WANNA SEE—THE SHOW, THAT IS

There are few musicals that dare to push the envelope. Michael LaChiusa believes in taking the road less traveled. His new musical, *See What I Wanna See* is an example of a composer who simply goes his own way.

The show is based upon a series of short stories written by Ryunosuke Akutagawa as translated by Takashi Kojima.

Each act of the show opens with Kesa and Morito, two adulterous Japanese lovers, who plan on murdering one another when they meet for the last time.

The first act is preceded by Kesa's version of the tryst. This opening sequence is followed by an adaptation of "In the Grove" called R. Shomon. It takes place in 1950s New York City where a murder has occurred in Central Park. The story is told from four different viewpoints. The thief, the wife of the victim, the victim (through a medium), and the movie theater janitor each give their account of what happened on the night of the murder.

The audience is left to wonder which is the truthful version.

Act two opens with Morito's version of the affair. It is followed by "Gloryday" in which a priest who has lost his faith starts a rumor that Jesus Christ will rise again on a particular Tuesday in Central Park.

This act is set in present day New York City post 9/11. This rumor rekindles the faith of a former CPA-turned homeless man, a drug ad-

dicted actress and a news reporter.

When the day comes, it is the priest who has the most significant resurgence of faith.

The production of *See What I Wanna See* boasts an all-star cast which includes Idina Menzel as Kesa, the wife and an actress, Marc Kudisch as Morito, the husband and CPA, Aaron Lohr as the thief and a reporter, and Henry Stram as the janitor and a priest.

The show also features Mary Testa as the medium and Aunt Monica.

The actors move between their respective characters with an effortless grace. The score is moving and even humorous at times.

My personal favorite songs are "No More" and "See What I Wanna See."

Both pieces are well-orchestrated and draw the audience into the movement of the show.

The set design of the show is very stark: a table, a chair or two or some plants in any given scene. This is the type of musical where not much is needed in the way of props. It is the conviction of the characters, accompanied by the score, that is enough to tell the story.

See What I Wanna See should take its place in a long tradition of American musicals that deal with Asian themes such as *The King and I*, *Flower Drum Song*, and *Pacific Overtures*.

It will end its run at the Public Theater on December 4, 2005. It made for a very enjoyable evening of theater.

Jazz Band Delivers at First Concert

By Jennifer Ciago

A man, a plan—a jazz band. That's all it took for sophomore John Castaldo to realize one of his dreams: the formation of the St. Joseph's College Jazz Ensemble.

John arrived at St. Joseph's College as a polished musician as both a saxophonist and a vocalist, but to his dismay, the Brooklyn campus had no jazz band for him to showcase his talents.

He was equally dismayed to learn that the Patchogue campus had a fairly extensive music department, but that Brooklyn, which is advertised as the 'main' campus of the school, had very few music classes.

With the help of his high school friends, Mike Multari and Carmine Cammarata, the idea of starting a jazz band took root.

"We all loved music, we all wanted to play, so we figured, why not start a band?" said Castaldo.

But one of the major questions that arose was, "Why a jazz band?" After all, amongst undergraduate aged students, jazz is not exactly a genre in great demand.

"I wanted to spread music that's disappearing—to keep the old music alive within the younger generations," he said.

Castaldo's next step was to find a moderator for the group. After other professors bowed out because of prior commitments, he was tipped off to Professor Leon Bernardyn as a possible moderator.

And indeed, Professor Bernardyn was just what the band needed. "He was so cool and jumped right on the bandwagon. His enthusiasm has revolutionized music at St. Joe's," said Castaldo.

The band got through its first year, performing publically at Cabaret Night in the spring of 2005.

Bassist Carmine Cammarata was lost through graduation, but his shoes were filled by guitarist Mike Multari who switched from electric guitar to bass to provide the bottom rhythm for the band.

During the fall term, two freshmen, Amanda Gavagan and James Ciago joined the band, Amanda on tenor sax and James doubling on electric guitar and piano.

Ultimately, Castaldo would like to see the band expand in size through the addition of more horns.

"I would love to see a full 17 piece swing band in the Glenn Miller, Tommy Dorsey mode," said Castaldo, "but I don't know where I will ever find four trombones or four trumpets in a school as small as St. Joe's," he added.

The band's first full concert took place on December 1. At that time, the group performed numbers such as "Bb Blues Shuffle," Herbie Hancock's "Watermelon Man" and the pop standard, "Skylark."

What the future holds for the band is hard to say. As the size of the freshmen classes increases, the possibility of a larger talent pool of musicians also increases.

Before the show, John summed it up by saying, "If we can get this show off the ground, it will make the band really happen. I don't want to move mountains—we've already moved mountains to get it going. I want to shift the continental plates!"

It just took an idea to make it happen, and for John Castaldo, ideas flow like notes from his saxophone.



The SJC Jazz Ensemble at Rehearsal in McEntegart Hall

REMINDER!
CLASSES RESUME
THURSDAY
JANUARY 19, 2006

St. Joe's Helps Refurbish Local School

"New York Cares" and St. Joe's Students Brighten up Global Studies School

By Gurjit Singh

Few people question St. Joseph's College's commitment to projects that reach out to the world, the nation and the community. Combine those efforts with one of the largest volunteer organizations in the city and the result is "New York Cares Day," a project that can have a profound effect upon the lives of numerous New York City youths.

Saturday, October 22, saw teams from various groups throughout New York City, including one from St. Joseph's, gathering at the Brooklyn School for Global Studies on Baltic Street.

For a period of six hours, the teams participated in a revitalization of that school that made it a much more conducive place in which youngsters could learn.

Stairwells, doors, hallways were all repainted. Flowers were planted, the library was cleaned and murals and line games were painted throughout the building.

"Our organization is based upon community involvement," said Connis Koiner of Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity. "It goes hand in hand with out service in the public interest and high Christian ideals," he added.

Miranda Ellis Graf, Assistant Director of Alumni Relations, was the team leader for the St. Joseph's contingent. She went to a "New York Cares" leadership meeting during the summer and she liked the ideas she heard and proposed them to Sister Susan Wilcox.

As the moderator of the Campus Ministry and Outreach Club, Sr. Susan saw this as an opportunity to make a real contribution to the community. She then opened the project up to the college and volunteers began signing on to participate in the project.

"It was a hard day of work, but at the end, I know it was worth it," said Cindy Mei of the St. Joseph's team.

The St. Joseph's team was made up of current students, alumni and faculty members who gave up their

Saturday to be a part of the project.

"Having attended a public elementary school and intermediate school in New York City, I made 'New York Cares' a priority," said Lena Massenbourg (Class of 2001). "Children need an environment that enhances their learning. Cheerful, bright and enticing themes in our New York City public schools make learning and teaching a pleasure," she added.

The St. Joseph's Alumni Association provided breakfast and lunch for the participants so the hungry workforce had plenty of energy to complete their tasks.

At the conclusion of the day's project, the Brooklyn School for Global Studies had its makeover. Not every problem that the school has was solved, of course, but the teams accomplished what it would have taken the New York City Department of Education's Maintenance Division months to accomplish—or even schedule.



Door and Window Frames get a Fresh Coat of Paint



Hand Painted Inspirational Messages Help the School's Mission



Campus Ministry Club Members Make Ornaments

Holiday Fest Rings in Season

By Christina Ament

The holiday season has descended upon America and the rest of the world. Stores, religious institutions, houses—they are decked out with signs of the season.

St. Joseph's College is no exception; it too is fully prepared to welcome the season in a variety of ways.

Each year the school prepares its campus for the holidays through festive decorations and holiday-themed activities. Chief amongst these activities is the Holiday Festival, scheduled for Wednesday, December 7 during common hour in the Tuohy Hall auditorium.

Many of the activities that were so popular at last year's Holiday Festival will be returning this year, according to Jaime Vacca, Assistant Director of Student Services.

Each club will donate a basket that contained items related to the theme of that club. "The athletics department prepared a basket containing St. Joe's athletic attire including warm up shirts for the different teams," said Ms. Vacca. "The PAWS

club put dog and cat toys and food into its basket," she added.

The baskets are then to be raffled off during the afternoon. Students and faculty are invited to purchase as many raffle tickets as they would like. The tickets sell for \$1.00 with discounts for multiple purchases available.

The campus also has additional events to celebrate the season. The front corridor of Tuohy Hall will be decorated with a Christmas Tree with ornaments hand-made by students at St. Joe's.

This "Giving Tree" enable students and staff to give gifts to charitable causes by sponsoring an ornament for the tree.

Another holiday event will be held at the Dillon Child Study Center. A Christmas Tree will be lit for the children and a very special guest—Santa Claus—will make an appearance to read them stories.

Holiday Festival is all about "keeping spirits bright" and sharing a special time with friends and colleagues.

That "spirit" is very much at home at St. Joseph's.

Choral Society Salutes Broadway in Winter Concert

By Erin Dorso

For decades, musical theater has been a part of American culture. Many of the tunes that have come from these musicals have entered the repertoire as "American Standards"—timeless melodies that have been recorded again and again by some of the music industry's biggest names.

Now, the St. Joseph's College Choral Society will bring some of those Broadway sounds to life. On December 8, 2005 at 7:30 PM in the auditorium of Tuohy Hall, the Choral Society, under the direction of Lynn Portas, will have its annual fall semester concert.

Following the success of last year's Cabaret Night, the Choral Society chose Broadway as its theme this year to show the rich variety of music that has come from the American stage.

The musical selections will run the gamut from Andrew Lloyd Webber to Stephen Schwartz with many stops in between. Songs from *Hair*, *Wicked*, *Phantom of the Opera* and many other classic shows are scheduled for performance.

"I can tell the chorus is going to be a big success because we're such a great group of people and friends. Beyond that, we have a large collective talent," said Amanda Gavagan, a new member of the Choral Society.

Some members of the group will offer solos as well as singing with the complete group.

Tickets will go on sale shortly after Thanksgiving and will cost \$5.00 each. Dessert and refreshments will be served to the guests during the 15 minute intermission that separates the two halves of the show.

Student Artists Make a Statement

By Carolyn Henrich

It's not easy being creative, but walk through the halls of St. Joseph's college and you would get the feeling that creativity comes naturally to the school's students.

The Student Art Exhibit scheduled for December 12 through December 14 will be yet another opportunity for St. Joe's students to show off their artistic ability.

Professor Jane Beckwith, Director of Art at St. Joseph's, is in charge of the art show. Artists from both the School of Arts and Sciences and the Adult and Professional School will be showcasing their work.

Pieces of art will include paintings, photographs, wall hangings, polymer clay amulets, block prints, artists books, boxes and picture frames.

On December 12, students from

the undergraduate art classes will help to celebrate the last day of classes by displaying their work. Saturday and Sunday will be the graduate school's chance to show their artwork to the community.

Having the opportunity to display their work is very important to the individual artists. It also gives a chance for students who are not taking art classes to see what goes on in those classes, thereby helping them to decide if they want to take them.

In the past, students have sold some of their artwork as a result of the Art Show and it is hoped that the same will happen after this year's show.

In the spring, another art show will give even more students a chance to display their creative talents.



Ornaments are Placed on the Giving Tree in Tuohy Hall

THE INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER

What was the biggest thing that happened to you in 2005?



The biggest thing that happened to me this year was that I started volunteering at a hospital.

—Antonela Ratin, Junior



For me, graduating high school and starting college was the biggest thing that happened.

—Xena Yehya, Freshman



I finished the hardest part of college, my junior year. Now I have more time to relax.

—Samantha Saines, Senior



Best thing that happened in 2005? I got this new suit—and it fits me perfectly!

—Lindon Richards, Junior



The best thing that happened to me in 2005 is that I met my favorite singer, Rupee.

—Deva Rambal, Junior



The biggest event of 2005 for me was getting to play Lysander in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

—Anthony Catalanotti, Freshman



The biggest thing that *will* happen to me in 2005 is that I am getting married on December 29th!

—Jaime Vacca, Student Services



Best thing? Entering St. Joseph's College and making so many great friends here.

—Amanda Gavagan, Freshman



The biggest thing that happened was that my best friend got into a car accident and I didn't know what would happen to her.

—Christina Traverson, Senior



The best thing that happened to me is that I lost 40 pounds in 2005 and wore a bikini for the first time!

—Victoria Simon, Junior

St. Joe's Opens Arms to Displaced Tulane Dean

By Gurjit Singh

Though reaching out to help other less fortunate individuals is standard operating procedure at St. Joseph's College, sometimes the help that is offered takes a very unusual form. That is how Associate Dean Carol Pizer of Sophie Newcombe College, the Women's Division of Tulane University in New Orleans, came to St. Joseph's.

After the late August ravages of Hurricane Katrina which left much of New Orleans in ruins, Tulane University was closed down by its president because of severe damage until repairs could be effected.

Dean Pizer found herself without a place to work—or live. The first floor of her house was flooded with four feet of water. Mold blanketed the walls and floors even after the waters receded.

The Dean of Tulane University called Sister Margaret Buckley, Academic Dean of Arts and Sciences for the Brooklyn campus and asked if there was a possibility for providing hospitality for Dean Pizer to come to St. Joseph's and try to do her advising work at long distance.

On behalf of the college, Sr. Margaret offered Dean Pizer space in the Archives Room on the second floor of the library.

"The technical people were very helpful in getting me hooked up with a computer and phone," said Dean Pizer.

She has been an advising and teaching at Sophie Newcombe College for 19 years. She did some part time teaching when her children were young.

The bulk of Dean Pizer's work at Tulane involves advising transfer students about program planning as well as advising juniors and seniors, mostly with academic checking to certify students for graduation.

On November 9, student regis-



Tulane Dean Carol Pizer in her Temporary Office

tration at Tulane began and it was vital for Dean Pizer to have a way to communicate with the students and give them advice. She had been in contact with students from October 17 through the present.

During her stay in New York, she has been staying with her daughter in Brooklyn, five blocks from the St. Joseph's campus.

She plans on returning to New Orleans for Thanksgiving where she hopes to stay with friends until she is able to return to her own home.

Though born in New York, Dean Pizer went to high school in New Orleans. She had a full scholarship for her undergraduate education at Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania, which included a period during which she studied in France. She also earned her Master's degree from Tulane University, where her husband is an English professor.

Because of her busy schedule she has had in emailing and telephoning

students, Dean Pizer has not been able to get to know the students at St. Joseph's, but she has been impressed at how friendly and helpful everyone has been.

As to the horrors of Hurricane Katrina, Dean Pizer adopts a philosophical point-of-view. "Some things are out of your control," she said, "and all you can do is try to recover" she added.

Though she was shocked to see the evidence of the hurricane's destructive force, and the misery that the residents had to endure, she believes that some good can grow out of the disaster.

"As a result of Katrina, I think that community service will grow. Students will return to the city and help to rebuild it into an even better place," she said.

Her sojourn at St. Joseph's is nearly over. By December 1, Dean Pizer expected to return to New Orleans to resume her duties.

New Director of Counseling and Career Services Named

By Gurjit Singh

The term 'guidance counselor' tends to evoke images of high school students meeting once a semester to plan a new schedule, or on occasion bringing a personal issue to a willing ear.

Personal issues, problems, questions about careers—none of these are left behind when a student leaves secondary school. Too often, on huge college campuses, students have no idea where to turn for help, and so they flail about, never solving problems or receiving help they need.

An advantage to a small college like St. Joseph's is that help is available in abundance, when and where students need it.

And so Frank Laterra comes to St. Joe's as the Counseling and Career Center reopens after a hiatus of two months.

Mr. Laterra is the new Director of Counseling at St. Joe's and plans on helping students not only with academic and career advising, but with personal difficulties as well.

"As a college student, you go through a lot of issues: family, aca-

demics, personal relationships," said Mr. Laterra. "It can be difficult to focus on your academics, so it is important to have a support system in college," he added.

Mr. Laterra obtained his Bachelor's degree from New York University in Applied Psychology. He then obtained his Master's degree from Hunter College in Counseling.

He has also done personal coun-

seling, working as a therapist at Beth Path Counseling Center.

The Office of Counseling and Career Services is located on the second floor of Tuohy Hall, opposite the Admissions Office. Mr. Laterra is available Monday-Thursday from 10 AM to 6 PM (7 PM on Wednesdays), and on Fridays from 9 AM to 3 PM. On Saturdays at the end of the month, he is also available from 9 AM to 3 PM.



New Director of Counseling Frank LaTerra

ST. JOSEPH'S SPORTS



Sports Talk By Adam Mace

DOTS A LOT OF SPORTS!

Must be the "silly" season or something, because when I think of sports, the craziest things pop into my head. For instance: Any truth to the rumor that the Yankees are trying to bolster their outfield by signing former Brooklyn Dodger Carl Furillo to a two year deal?.....Nice of New Yorkers to treat Larry Brown like he was first cousin to the Messiah, but when you get down to it—the Knicks are, well, the Knicks, nothing more nothing less. That could explain the 0-4 start.....In case you haven't noticed, NHL Hockey has returned! Oh, you have noticed, but really couldn't care less?.....I bet the Dolan boys care about the Rangers—after all, MSG lost over 12 million bucks last quarter now that they have to pay all those salaries.....So far this season, the most exciting thing that has happened to Green Bay is when the fan ran on the field and stole the ball. His plea before the judge? Not guilty. Says he was just trying to avoid the cruel and inhuman punishment of watching the Packers this year.....Ah, so the Mets want Manny Ramirez! Now there's a real stabilizing force in the clubhouse!.....Is it just me, or has anyone else noticed that Jets quarterbacks are as fragile as a Ming vase?.....Let me get this straight: the Yankees want to trade Jorge Posada? Like they have anyone down on the farm to replace him! Or do they seriously think they can get Benjie Molina?.....Say what you will, Wellington Mara was a truly great sportsman and a mainstay of the NFL for many decades. He will be missed by the fans, the organization and the game.....Let me ask you, is it only my imagination, or are the majority of NFL games coming in with the winning team scoring less than 30 points per game? Yawn. Getting a bit boring on the gridiron, no?.....Good thing they are shutting down all those late night poker clubs. Now A-Rod can donate all that money he used to lose to charitable causes (yeah, right).....There's a rumor that the China Olympics is going to be called the Wal-Mart Games. If Trump and Turner can sponsor athletic events and slap their

names all over them, why not the good folks from Arkansas?.....I hear France wants an NFL Europe franchise. Gonna call them *Les Rioters*.....I Can't wait to see what team picks up Terrell Owens and his big contract—and how quickly his big mouth and spoiled attitude take to get him bounced again.....Kudos to Jo Pa for bringing joy back to Happy Valley. Penn State is riding high again. Too bad Bill Callahan can't do the same thing for the Huskers in Lincoln.....I will say it right now: Mo Rivera got robbed. There never was a more dominant closer in the history of the game. Winning 21 games is a big deal—but *saving* almost 50% of your teams victories, well, that's in another league altogether.....I'm really hoping the United States makes progress in major Winter Olympic events like 4 man luge and curling. I dunno, there's just something sexy about those sweepers.....Tiger Woods' earnings this past PGA season was equal to the GNP of most Third World nations. Not bad for whacking a ball around, following it, and whacking it again.....Now that Steinbrenner and Joe Torre have patched things up, you think this will pave the way for the return of Don Zimmer?.....Is there any free agent starter out there that can help the Yankees rebuild their woeful rotation?.....It's not that I'm biased or anything, but the White Sox—Astros World Series had about as much drawing power as an episode of "My Mother the Car." And about as much suspense.....Just saw the Mets schedule for 2006. In attempt to be like the Yankees, they will be having some great promo nights: Scrap Metal Night on June 4, Used Box Lunch Night on July 18, and the big one—Free Cans of Niblets Night—on August 1. Frankly, I can't wait.....I read where the average Knick ticket is now \$79.00, and that's only third highest in the league. Of course at the Garden, you need a second mortgage to buy a hot dog and a soda.....What's with the Yankees hiring all these ex-managers as coaches? Auditions for Joe Torre's job maybe?.....Well gang, it's been real. Have a great holiday season. Dots all for now.....

**SUPPORT ST. JOE'S BASKETBALL
COME TO A HOME GAME
AND ROOT FOR THE BEARS!**

Back-to-Back Titles for Lady Bears Volleyballers

By Svetlana Medvedeva

Talk about "That Championship Season!"—How about *two* of them—back to back? Now we're talking about the Lady Bears Volleyball Team who have won their second consecutive Hudson Valley Women's Athletic Conference championship.

Winning their first championship in 2004 was sweet—but repeating as conference champs is a true athletic achievement.

"Everyone contributed something to this team, even the players who didn't start regularly, and I think that's one reason we were so successful," said sophomore Christina Ament.

The team's stats are a reflection of the kind of season they had. Their overall record was 16-6 (.727) and their conference record was an outstanding 7-1 (.875).

In the conference tournament, the Lady Bears were scarcely even challenged, winning all nine of the games they played.

In the quarterfinal match, they defeated Marymount College by the

scores of 30-16, 30-11 and 30-13.

Moving up to the semifinal match against St. Elizabeth's College, the Lady Bears posted victories of 30-13, 30-20 and 30-22.

In the championship match against archrival Mount St. Vincent's College, the Lady Bears faced their toughest competition, winning the first match by only 30-26. But in the second and third games, the Lady Bears streaked to 30-19 and 30-20 victories, securing the title.

Sophomore Magdalena Wiecek was named MVP of the tournament. Her season statistics give some idea of her value to the team.

Magdalena led the team with an average of 5.05 kills per game. She also led the team with 188 digs and 634 attempts.

Other key players included Marzena Stadnicka who paced the Lady Bears with 69 aces to go with her 178 kills and 325 serves.

Bela Huseinovic led the team with a 96.0 serving percentage followed closely by Sidonia Young with a 92.6%.

One of the keys to the success of

the Lady Bears is the continuity of the coaching staff. Head Coach Mike Schober is now in his fourth year of coaching at St. Joseph's College and his assistant coaches, Mario Tang and Sylwia Parzych, have been with him through both championship seasons.

The 2005 season got off to a strong beginning for the team as they went 4-1 in their first five games. After a loss to William Patterson College, the team spun off a string of 11 consecutive victories before going into a 3 game slide.

But they finished with a dominating performance over the College of New Rochelle which set them up for the playoffs.

One of the encouraging aspects of the team is their youth. The 2005 squad has no seniors on the roster. This bodes well for next season since the majority of the team has now had two varsity seasons of playing together.

And so another year of St. Joseph's College volleyball comes to a close—with the Lady Bears sitting at the top of the conference world.



Lady Bears in Action Against Brooklyn College



Lauren Zecca Readies a Shot

Tennis Team Completes First Conference Season

By Christina Ament

No one ever said that starting a new team and making it into a winner would be an easy task. After all, it took 45 years for the Houston Astros to get into a World Series and the last time the Chicago Cubs were in the series, William Howard Taft was in the White House.

Thus it happens that the Women's Tennis Team at St. Joseph's College played its first season, a season that is now in the books, and a season that will, to say the least, go down as a learning experience.

For second year coach Walter Sanchez, 2005 will be a year of reflection upon his players and their abilities.

One problem he will face is in recruiting. Of the eight members of the team, four were seniors: Kristin

Healy, Jill Spinosa, Itchelle White and Lauren Zecca. Replacements must be found before the commencement of the next varsity season.

The team's overall record was 2-5, not bad for a team whose players had very limited competitive experience.

In conference play, however, the team was only 1-4, but played against squads who had years more experience.

In the Hudson Valley Women's Athletic Conference tournament, held at the National Tennis Center in Flushing Meadow Park, Queens, St. Joe's finished 4th in a field of 8, ahead of the College of New Rochelle as well as St. Elizabeth's College.

Two of the Lady Bears were named to the All-HVWAC team, Jill Spinosa and Kristin Healy.

The Lady Bears also suffer from having to play all of their games away, not having a home court of their own.

The returning members of the team are certain that the 2006 season will be better for them.

"I feel as though many of us had very little actual playing experience," said sophomore Svetlana Medvedeva, "but now that we have played a full conference season, my teammates and I feel that we can do much better next year," she added.

With strong recruiting, strengthening fundamental tennis skills, and the same level of enthusiasm as the team brought to 2005, next season should be one to look forward to with great interest and excitement.